

22 Parishes Suffer with Double-Digit Unemployment, Yet Bill Offers No Relief to State
September 22, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Protesting the bill's exclusion of Louisianians still looking for work, U.S. Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) voted today against legislation extending unemployment benefits in certain economically hard-hit states. The Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009 (HR 3548) would provide up to another 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits in 29 states with seasonally-adjusted, three-month average total unemployment rates of 8.5 percent or higher. Although over half of Louisiana's parishes have unemployment rates of at least 8.5%, none of the state's struggling workers will receive additional benefits because the statewide average has not risen to that level.

22 Parishes Suffer with Double-Digit Unemployment, Yet Bill Offers No Relief to State
September 22, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Protesting the bill's exclusion of Louisianians still looking for work, U.S. Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) voted today against legislation extending unemployment benefits in certain economically hard-hit states. The Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009 (HR 3548) would provide up to another 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits in 29 states with seasonally-adjusted, three-month average total unemployment rates of 8.5 percent or higher. Although over half of Louisiana's parishes have unemployment rates of at least 8.5%, none of the state's struggling workers will receive additional benefits because the statewide average has not risen to that level.

"Unemployment knows no borders or boundaries, and is just as painful if you live in Natchez, Mississippi, or just a few miles away in Vidalia, Louisiana," said Rep. Melancon. "Yet thousands of Louisianians still struggling to find jobs will be left high and dry at the end of the month when their unemployment assistance runs out."

Rep. Melancon continued, **"I truly sympathize with those states that have been hardest hit by this recession, but I cannot turn my back on workers in Louisiana. I will work with my colleagues in Congress to make sure this bill recognizes out-of-work Louisianians as well, and extends them relief to help them through this rough patch."**

According to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of July of this year 36 parishes in Louisiana had unemployment rates of 8.5% or higher. Four of them are in the Third Congressional District. 22 parishes across the state had double-digit unemployment levels. More information about Louisiana's unemployment levels can be found by [clicking here](#).

As of now, workers in the following "high unemployment states" will receive extended benefits: AL, AZ, CA, DC, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, KY, MA, ME, MI, MS, MO, NV, NJ, NC, NY, OH, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC, TN, WA, WI & WV.

###